



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 27, 1999

H.R. 858

District of Columbia Court Employees' Act of 1999

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs
on May 20, 1999*

H.R. 858 would amend District of Columbia statutes to provide for personnel protection for employees of the District of Columbia court who cooperate with a Congressional investigation. Under the legislation, employees or former employees could seek relief from violations by first filing grievances with the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration of the District of Columbia and then, if necessary, filing civil claims in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. If the U.S. District Court were to find that an employee's claim was unwarranted, the legislation would authorize it, upon request, to award the payment of reasonable fees and court costs to the court of the District of Columbia. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 858 would have little or no effect on the federal budget. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 858, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) because it would impose enforceable duties on the District of Columbia with regard to the treatment of court personnel. CBO estimates that the costs of complying with the mandate would be minimal, and thus would not exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$50 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation). H.R. 858 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contacts are John R. Righter (for federal costs), and Susan Sieg (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.